

each of said component supply tables being supported on casters so as to be movable between support frames toward and away from the respective side of the board mounting position and replaceable by being removed from the respective side of the board mounting position so that a new component supply table for accommodating a second plurality of components can be positioned at the side of the board mounting position vacated by one of the component supply tables; and

a first mounting head section for successively picking up components at one of the component supply tables, thereafter moving to a board positioned at the board mounting position, and thereafter successively mounting the picked-up components onto the board while moving in first and second directions which are perpendicular to each other,

wherein the first direction is perpendicular to a board transfer direction in which the board is transferred, and the second direction is located along the board transfer direction,

a second mounting head section for successively picking up components at the other of the component supply tables, thereafter moving to the board positioned at the board mounting position, and thereafter successively mounting the picked-up components onto the board while moving in third and fourth directions which are perpendicular to each other,

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wherein the third direction is parallel to the first direction, and the fourth direction is parallel to the second direction but is not necessarily the same direction as the second direction,

wherein each of the first and second mounting head sections is independently movable between one of the component supply tables and the board.

16. (Amended) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 15, wherein each of the component supply tables is selected from one of:

a component supply table provided with component supply means comprised of parts cassettes provided with reels;

a component supply table provided with stick-shaped component supply means at which components stored in a pipe member are successively fed to a take-out position;

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a component supply table on which bulk components are placed; and
a tray-shaped component supply table.

17. The component mounting apparatus according to claim 16, wherein component take-out positions of the component supply tables are positioned along a straight line extending along a board transfer path along which the board is transferred.

18. (Thrice Amended)

A component mounting apparatus comprising:

EN a base structure;

a pair of inverted U-shaped support frames positioned on said base structure in a parallel relationship and on opposite sides of a board mounting position, wherein a board transfer path extends through openings in said U-shaped support frames;

a first component supply table supported on a plurality of casters and removably secured between said support frames on a first side of the board transfer path,

a second component supply table supported on a plurality of casters and removably secured between said support frames on a second side of the board transfer path, wherein each of said first and second component supply tables accommodates a plurality of components,

wherein each of said component supply tables can be moved in a perpendicular direction toward and away from the board transfer path;

a first mounting head section for successively picking up a plurality of components at the first component supply table, thereafter moving to a board positioned at the board mounting position, and thereafter successively mounting the plurality of picked-up components onto the board while moving in first and second perpendicular directions, wherein the first direction is perpendicular to the board transfer direction,

a second mounting head section for successively picking up a plurality of components at the second component supply table, thereafter moving to the board positioned at the board mounting position, and thereafter successively mounting the

plurality of picked-up components onto the board while moving in third and fourth directions which are perpendicular to each other, wherein the third direction is parallel to the first direction,

wherein the first and second mounting head sections are independently movable between the board and the first and second component supply tables, respectively.

19. The component mounting apparatus according to claim 15, wherein each of the component supply tables is provided with component supply means comprised of parts cassettes provided with reels, and when one of the component supply tables does not have components required for a mounting operation, it can be replaced with a new component supply table provided with the required components.

20. The component mounting apparatus according to claim 15, wherein, when the components are mounted on a plurality of types of boards, one of the component supply tables, having components required for one of the types of boards, is used for the one type of board while the other of the component supply tables is provided with components required for one of the other types of boards.


21. The component mounting apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the first component supply table is provided with a plurality of cassettes, and if components required for a mounting operation are not contained in the cassettes, the first component supply table can be replaced with a new component supply table having cassettes that are provided with the required components.

22. The component mounting apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the first component supply table is provided with components that are to be mounted on a first type of board, and the second component supply table is provided with components that are to be mounted on a second type of board so that concurrent mounting operations can be conducted on the first and second types of boards.

Please add the following new claim:

23. (New) A component mounting apparatus comprising:

a base structure;

 a pair of inverted U-shaped support frames positioned on said base structure in a parallel relationship and on opposite sides of a board mounting position, wherein a board transfer path extends through openings in said U-shaped support frames;

a first component supply table supported on a plurality of casters, said first component supply table being removably secured between said support frames on a first side of the board transfer path,

a second component supply table supported on a plurality of casters , said second component supply table being removably secured between said support frames on a second side of the board transfer path, wherein each of said first and second component supply tables accommodates a plurality of components,

wherein each of said component supply tables can be moved in a perpendicular direction toward and away from the board transfer path;

a first mounting head section for successively picking up a plurality of components at said first component supply table, thereafter moving to a board positioned at the board mounting position, and thereafter successively mounting the plurality of picked-up components onto the board; and

a second mounting head section for successively picking up a plurality of components at the second component supply table, thereafter moving to the board positioned at the board mounting position, and thereafter successively mounting the plurality of picked-up components onto the board,

wherein the first and second mounting head sections are capable of independently moving between the board and said first and second component supply tables, respectively.

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24.(New) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said first component supply table is provided with a plurality of cassettes.

25.(New) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said first component supply table is provided with components that are to be mounted on a first type of board, and said second component supply table is provided with components that are to be mounted on a second type of board which is different from the first type of board.

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